

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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R 141610Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3184

INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG OAU

SUBJECT: OAU STATEMENT BY SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTER

SUMMARY. IN A STATEMENT TO THE OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (CM), SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTER OMAR ARTEH REVIEWED THE PROGRESS OF AFRICAN LIBERATION GROUPS, ESPECIALLY IN PORTUGUESE AFRICA. HE THEN LAID GREAT STRESS ON THE STATUS FRENCH TERRITORY OF AFARS AND ISSAS (FTAI) WHICH HE REPEATEDLY TERMED "FRENCH SOMALILAND." HE UNDERLINED OAU SUPPORT FOR EGYPT AND THE OTHER ARAB STATES AGAINST ISRAEL. END SUMMARY.

1. OUTGOING OAU CM CHAIRMAN, SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTER OMAR ARTEH GHALIB, ADDRESSED THE OPENING SESSION OF THE OAU CM IN ADDIS ABABA, FEBRUARY 13. HE REVIEWED THE PROGRESS IN LIBERATING AFRICAN TERRITORIES SINCE THE JUNE 1974 OAU SUMMIT IN MOGADISCIO. HE PRAISED PORTUGAL FOR ITS "NOBLE GESTURE" IN MAKING INDEPENDENCE FOR THE PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES POSSIBLE SO SOON AND SUGGESTED THAT OAU MEMBERS "SERIOUSLY RECONSIDER OUR RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL." THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC  
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RELATIONS WITH PORTUGAL, HE SAID, WILL HELP BOLSTER "THE

PROGRESSIVE GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL."

2. OMAR ARTEH NOTED THE PROGRESS OF AFRICAN LIBERATION IN ZIMBABWE AND THE COMORO AND SEYCHELLE ISLANDS. IN THE CASE OF NAMIBIA, HE SAID, AFRICA IS FULLY COMMITTED TO THE TOTAL INDEPENDENCE ON THE BASIS OF MAJORITY RULE. HE DEPLORED APARTHEID AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTH AFRICA AND REAFFIRMED THE OAU'S TOTAL SUPPORT FOR "OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS THERE."

3. OMAR ARTEH THEN DISCUSSED AT CONSIDERABLE LENGTH "THE CASE OF FRENCH SOMALILAND." HE SAID IT IS "SURPRISING" THAT SINCE JUNE 1974 FRANCE HAS TAKEN NO ACTION TO INDICATE ITS READINESS TO LEAVE THE FTAI IN SPITE OF "RECENT INTERNATIONAL EVENTS" FAVORING THE TOTAL LIBERATION OF AFRICA. ON THE CONTRARY, HE SAID, FRANCE IS "BUSY CONSOLIDATING ITS COLONIALIST ROLE AND CONTINUES UNASHAMEDLY TO CONSIDER FRENCH SOMALILAND AS PART AND PARCEL WITH FRANCE." HE COMPARED THE PRESENT FRENCH POSITION TO THAT OF THE "TOPPLED FASCIST REGIME IN PORTUGAL." OMAR ARTEH THEN CALLED UPON THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE SET BY THE NEW PORTUGUESE REGIME. INSTEAD, HE SAID, WITHIN THE PAST YEAR "DJIBOUTI HAS BEEN TURNED INTO A FORMIDABLE MILITARY AND NAVAL BASE." HE STATED "REPRESSIVE MEASURES AGAINST THE POPULATION ... HAD BEEN INTENSIFIED." HE CLAIMED THAT THOUSANDS OF THE LOCAL INHABITANTS HAVE BEEN EXPELLED FROM THEIR HOMELAND, "MURDERED, DROWNED IN BLOOD OR THROWN INTO REMOTE AND DESOLATE PLACES WHERE THEY MEET THEIR DEATH AS A RESULT OF THIRST, HUNGER, OR SUN STROKE." HE THEN DECRIED THE ELECTRIFIED BARBED WIRE AND MINE FIELDS SURROUNDING DJIBOUTI AND CALLED FOR A REAPPRAISAL OF THE OAU STRATEGY VIS-A-VIS "FRENCH SOMALILAND" SINCE "OUR PEACEFUL AND FRIENDLY APPROACHES TO FRANCH HAVE NOT BORNE FRUIT."

4. OMAR ARTEH PROCLAIMED THE OAU'S SUPPORT FOR THE POSITIONS OF THE ARAB STATES AND PALESTENIAN PEOPLE AND NOTED THE "COMMENDABLE OUTCOME" OF THE RABAT ARAB SUMMIT WHERE IT WAS DECIDED TO INTENSIFY AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION.

5. HE CONCLUDED WITH THE HOPE THAT BY THE TIME OF THE NEXT OAU MEETING, MORE PROGRESS WILL HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE FIELDS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF DECOLONIZATION AND AFRICAN COOPERATION.

6. EMBASSY WILL POUCH TEXT TO DEPARTMENT.  
WYMAN

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## Message Attributes

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